

WELSH BOARD  
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BARMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Barmouth  
Urban District Council,

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Barmouth Urban Area for 1951.

Dr. D.O. Williams relinquished the post of District Medical Officer on the 31st March, 1952, and I wish to thank him for his assistance in completing this report.

The population (Register General's figures - mid year estimate) is 2,366. - a slight increase over the 1950 figure of 2352.

The total number of live births was 44, total number of deaths was 35 - the Birth Rate, therefore, exceeds the Death Rate and it is pleasing to note that Barmouth is one of the few districts in the County where there has been more births than deaths.

From 1945 to December, 1951, 85 Council owned houses have been erected and plans for another 54 houses were in hand, out of a total of 104 houses for the entire scheme.

There still remains a large number of families living in overcrowded and completely insanitary conditions, but the housing programme is satisfactory, the number of new houses built per 1,000 population being 35.9 - taking second place within the County, Bala Urban District Council being the first with 44.4 per 1,000 population.

The health of the community has been good - no reported cases of food poisoning occurred during the year and there were no cases of the more serious type of infectious diseases.

The Ministry's Slaughterhouse remains in a deplorable condition and this has been reported in past reports by Mr. E. Ifor Price the Sanitary Inspector.

I wish to thank the Council for their co-operation and to Mr. Price for his assistance during the year.

I beg to remain,

Yours respectfully,

E. WILLIAMS.

District Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Urban District.....1,347 acres.  
Rateable Value 31/12/51..... £16,983.  
Population(Registerar General's  
figures) Mid year 1951..... 2,366.  
Sum represented by Penny Rate..... £65.16.5d.  
(31/12/51)  
Number of inhabited houses(according  
to the Rate Book) at the end of year.  
31/12/51..... 880. approximately

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

Births.... 0.96.  
Deaths.... 0.80.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Nett Births (Live and Still).....46.  
Births (Live).....44.  
Births (Still).....2.  
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population.....18.60.

(1) Live Births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Total	22	22
Legitimate	20.	22.
Illegitimate.	2.	-

(2) Still Births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Total.	2.	-
Legitimate.	1.	-
Illegitimate.	1.	-

DEATHS.

Total Number.....35.  
Rate per 1,000 population.....14. 79.  
1950 figures.....13. 18.

Deaths of Infants under One Year.

Total.....1.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Total.	1.	-
Legitimate.	1.	-
Illegitimate.	-	-

Infant Mortaility ( Rate per 1,000 Live Births).....22.73.

1950 figures.....Nil Deaths.

Deaths of Legitimate Infants.....1  
Mortality (per 1,000 live births).....22. 73.  
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants.....Nil.  
Mortality(per 1,00 live births).....Nil.

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Total.	1.	-
Legitimate.	1.	-
Illegitimate.	-	-

Maternal Mortality.

(Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy - Nil)

Deaths from Cancer.

Total....3.

Rate per 1,000 population.....1. 27.

Death from Tuberculosis.

Total....2.

Rate per 1,000 population.....0. 85.

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SECTION.B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

One Medical Officer of Health.

One Sanitary Inspector - holding the appointment of Sanitary Inspector/Surveyor.

(2) Laboratory Facilities.

Water Analysis (Chemical) carried out by the Public Analyst, Chester.

Water (bacteriological examination) carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Aberystwyth.  
Milk. (tests for cleanliness, for keeping quality and for tubercule bacilli) at Public Health Laboratory Aberystwyth, No charge is made on the Local Authority for these tests.

(3) Ambulance Facilities.

One British Red Cross Ambulance stationed at Barmouth.

(4) Infant Welfare Clinics.

At English Congregational Chapel Vestry -  
held twice a month.

(5) Ante Natal Clinics.

At Dolgelley Cottage Hospital - held twice a month.

(6) Orthopaedic Clinic.

At Dolgelley Cottage Hospital held twice a month.

(7) Tuberculosis Clinic.

At Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley, twice a month,

(8) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health.  
Immunisation of babies and young children carried  
out at the Primary Schools.

(9) Hospitals.

Dolgelley Cottage Hospital.

(10) Maternity Home.

Six beds.

(11) Infectious Diseases.

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than  
Tuberculosis) notified during the year.....74.

Scarlet Fever	1.
Bacillary Dysentery	Nil.
Whooping Cough.	62.
Measles.	11.
Infantile Paralysis.	Nil.
Diphtheria.	Nil.

T U B E R C U L O S I S .

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NEW CASES.

Pulmonary.	Total.	3.
Males.	Nil.	Females. 3.

Non-Pulmonary.	Total	Nil.
Males.	Nil	Females. Nil.

DEATHS.

Pulmonary	Total.	2.
Males.	2.	Females. Nil.
Non-Pulmonary	Total.	Nil.



# T U B E R C U L O S I S (Contd)

New Cases and Mortality during 1951 in age groups.

Age Periods.	New Cases.		Non-Respiratory.		Deaths.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Respiratory				Respiratory.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.								
1.								
2.								
5.								
10.								
15.								
20.								
25.		1.						
35.					1.			
45.		1.						
55.		1.						
65.					1.			
75.								
Total.		3.			2.			.

Of the three new cases notified during the year, one was an inward transfer, having contracted T.B. outside the County.

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1951.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis Pulmonary.	2.	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
Cancer Stomach.	-	1.
" Lung.	1.	-
" Breast.	-	-
" Other sites.	-	1.
Vascular Lesions of nervous system.	1.	2.
Coronary disease, angina	3.	2.
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	-	-
Other heart diseases.	3.	9
Other circulatory disease.	1.	1.
Influenza.	-	1.
Pneumonia.	-	-
Bronchitis.	-	1.
Other diseases of respiratory system.	1.	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	-
Nephritis, and nephrosis.	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2.	1.
Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-
All other accidents.	-	-
Suicide.	1.	-
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1.	-
	-----	-----
	16.	19.
	=====	=====

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER - 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Population</u> <u>1951.</u>	<u>Per 1,000</u> <u>Population.</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u> <u>built per</u> <u>1,000</u> <u>population.</u>
<u>URBAN AREAS.</u>						
Bala.	5.	6.	11.	1,488.	7.3	44.4.
Barmouth.	4.	5.	9.	2,366.	3.8.	35.9.
Dolgelley.	16.	14.	30.	2,535.	11.8.	20.9.
Ffestiniog.	75.	34.	109.	6,871.	15.8.	2.0.
Towyn.	9.	6.	15.	4,410.	3.4.	11.8.
<u>RURAL AREAS.</u>						
Deudraeth.	26.	39.	65.	6,975.	9.3.	13.8.
Dolgelley Rural.	29.	12.	41.	9,225.	4.4.	8.4.
Edeyrnion.	13.	11.	24.	4,182.	5.7.	17.7.
Penllyn.	5.	7.	12.	2,799.	4.3.	5.7.
<u>PARISH AREAS.</u>						
Pennal.	1.	8.	9.	319.	2.8.	

M A S S R A D I O G R A P H Y.

The Mass Radiography Service Unit visited the urban area during May. The total number of persons X-rayed was 601. Made up as follows :-

School Children                      365.

General Population.              236.

There were several complaints received from the public - the chief being the lack of publicity given to the Service. This may have been so, and must be improved. On the part of the general public the service was not patronised as it should have been - there was evidence of indifference and apathy on their part, as can be seen from the low figures of persons who do avail themselves of the service.

Whilst there has been a fall in the annual death rate from tuberculosis there has been no appreciable decline in the number of new cases notified each year.

Provided the disease is discovered sufficiently early, there is a cure. The fact has not been emphasised adequately - the public are still prone to view the diagnosis of tuberculosis almost as a death sentence. This may explain their apparent attitude of apathy and indifference to the visits of the Mass Radiography Unit.



The public are really interested, but they cannot dispel the fear of being labelled as "suffering from tuberculosis".

A fresh, more positive, outlook must be adopted by the public towards this disease; it must be viewed not as a disease which results in death, but as a disease which can be cured.

It is difficult to eliminate, but with their active co-operation much can be achieved. The earlier it is discovered the greater the chances are of complete recovery, and the risk of its spread amongst the rest of the family and the community can be lessened.

The public must play their part, and avail themselves of the services of the Mass Radiography Unit. It is to their advantage.

#### DISINFECTION OF INFECTED ARTICLES AND BEDDING.

At the present moment there is no proper apparatus for the disinfection of infected bedding and clothing.

The main disease where infection is required is tuberculosis. The number of cases notified each year still remains at a high level.

As it would be an expensive item for each local authority to provide their own disinfector, the District Councils have now agreed to combine for the provision of a disinfector which would be placed centrally within the county. The County Council have been approached regarding assistance, by way of transport and personnel for the collection and delivery of bedding, for which payment would be made.

The request for a disinfector is nothing new- its need was pointed out in 1888. In 1910 the Medical Officer of Health described the disinfection of bedding in the County as being more or less a farce. I believe we are at last on the verge of providing a proper disinfection service.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT. SECTION.47

(Removal to suitable premises of persons in  
need of care and attention)

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No action was found necessary during 1951. A register of elderly persons living alone is now being prepared. There was some difficulty in the ascertainment of the numbers of such persons. They are reported, however, by the District Nurses, Sanitary Inspectors and Officers of the National Assistance Board.

This register, although continually changing and although it cannot possibly be kept up to date, does provide an index of the elderly persons living alone, and it does assist in ensuring that regular visits can be paid to these persons.

They cling to their homes, and I feel there would be much local criticism should they be removed under this Act against their will, however great was the need.

From an economic and humane viewpoint, it would be better to allow these persons to continue living in their own homes, and I find that many can manage reasonably well for themselves if provided with a little outside daily help. This can be given if they reside in a town or village.

Persons living in isolated or remote cottages provide a different problem and where no local help is near, then compulsory removal to homes is the only alternative however disagreeable it may be to all concerned.



HOUSES BUILT BY COUNCILS FROM  
1945 to DECEMBER, 1951.

(showing rate per thousand of population)

<u>District</u>	<u>Population</u> <u>(Mid 1951 estimated)</u>	<u>Houses</u> <u>Built.</u>	<u>Rate per</u> <u>1,000 of</u> <u>population.</u>
<u>URBAN AREA.</u>			
Bala.	1,488.	66.	44.4.
Barmouth	2,366.	85.	35.9.
Dolgelley Urban.	2,535.	53.	20.9.
Ffestiniog.	6,871.	14.	2.0.
Towyn.	4,410.	52.	11.8.
<u>RURAL AREAS.</u>			
Deudraeth.	6,975.	96.	13.8.
Dolgelley Rural.	9,225.	78.	8.4.
Edeyrnion.	4,182.	74.	17.7.
Penllyn.	2,799.	16.	5.7.

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 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31st DECEMBER, 1951.  
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To the Chairman and Members,  
Barmouth Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report upon the Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for 1951.

(1) WATER SUPPLY. - Over 97 million gallons of water were consumed during the year, representing a daily flow of 266,000 gallons which is equivalent to 112 gallons per day per head of the normal winter population. This consumption may appear to be excessive but there are several reasons governing the amount used. Fortunately there is an abundance of water and there is no likelihood of failure in the supply at the source. Failure is more likely to occur in the distributing system, particularly in the main between the source of supply and the reservoir.

Early in June you did however experience some trouble at the lake. Some unauthorised person had opened the compensation valve which gradually drained the lake. At the time of our inspection the level had dropped 7'-6" below normal and had this inspection been delayed another week or so we should have found the lake drained away completely. It was estimated at the time that some 75 million gallons of water had been lost. Even during the very dry summer of 1949 the level of the lake never dropped more than 2 feet below normal.

Towards the end of August you were to a great extent, compelled to re new a section of the trunk main at Llanaber. This was brought about consequent to the County Council carrying out a road widening scheme. The total length of water main involved is 1,100 yards of which approximately 600 yards were laid during the year. The estimated cost of the replacement scheme is almost £4,000, towards which the County Council are making a contribution.

Reports upon the bacteriological examination indicated that the quality of the water was highly satisfactory :-

Probable number of coliform bacilli - 0 per 100 ml

Probable number of faecal coli. - 0 per 100 ml.

## (2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Apart from the normal or routine work of maintenance and repair this service received no special attention. The discharging of the main outfall sewers both at the Harbour and opposite the Airey Houses at mid-tide level did give rise to a number of complaints from visitors and inhabitants.

## (3) RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There were no cases of river or stream pollution during the year and, therefore, no action was required.

## (4) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were no instances of the replacement of the dry type of closets by water closets and the number of Pail Closets and Privies remained as in the previous year's report.

## (5) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out in a satisfactory manner.

## (6) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Total number of Inspections	-	201.
Notices served - Formal.	-	Nil.
Notices served Informal.	-	10.

### Inspections.

Bakehouses	8.
Cowsheds.	15.
Dairies.	3.
Milkshops.	2.
Ice Cream Properties.	36.
Fried Fish Premises.	7.
Factories.	29.
Restaurants.	2.
Government Slaughterhouse.	93.
Blocked Drains.	6.

### Notices Served re Defective Drains.

(1) Formal	Nil
(2) Informal.	5.

## CAMPING SITES.

The number of sites in the area which were used for Camping Purposes during the year.

- 4.

## CAMPING SITES (contd)

The number of Camping Sites in respect of which Licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. = 1.

The estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season. = 600.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action needed or taken.

SWIMMING BATHS - None.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS, ETC.

No cases reported.

SCHOOLS. - Both Schools were kept in a very satisfactory condition of cleanliness.

## (7) HOUSING.

The Council completed 14 new houses during the year thus bringing the number of post-war houses up to 85. Unfortunately no tenders were received for the erection of the 4 Maisonettes, plans for which were prepared during 1950. Plans for the erection of 54 houses were prepared as a first installment of the scheme for 104 houses. These were approved by the appropriate departments. The site, approximately 7 acres in extent, was acquired compulsorily.

## (8) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing Defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts. = 33.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. = 45.
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses included under Sub-Head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. = Nil.
- (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose. = Nil.
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. = 1.
4. Number of dwelling houses, exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-Head, found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. = 1.
5. Remedy for Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice. = Nil
- Rendered fit - Informal action by Local Authority or their Officers. = Nil.



(9) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (a) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. Nil.
- (b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice. Nil.
  - (i) by owners. Nil.
  - (ii) by Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

(2) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

- (a) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 4.
- (b) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice.
  - (i) by owners. 4.
  - (ii) by Local Authority in default of owners. Nil

(3) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (a) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. Nil.
- (b) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil.

(4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil.
- (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

(5) Housing Act, 1936 - Part V.- Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Unknown.
- (ii) Number of Families dwelling therein. Do.
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein. Do.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. Nil.

(9) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR. (Contd)

- (5) (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. Nil.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling Houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil.

(10) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. - Periodic visits were made to all farms, within the district where milk is produced. Samples were taken and the results of the analysis were quite satisfactory.

(b) ICE CREAM. - No additional premises were registered during the year. Routine inspection of all registered premises was carried out especially during the summer season and I am glad to state that there were no complaints and there was no occasion where official action had to be taken.

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. - All meat, as far as possible, was inspected prior to its removal from the slaughterhouse. During the year 5,319 lbs. of meat was condemned as being unfit for human consumption

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs.
No. of Animals killed and inspected.	568.	24.	2,666.	20.
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned.	1.	3.	7.	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Only. Whole Carcass condemned	8.	-	1.	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-

Foodstuffs, other than fresh meat, were condemned in fairly large quantities during the year.

E IFOR PRICE.

Sanitary Inspector.

